

Chief Warrant Officer David Williams went down and they were captured by Iraqis.

For several days, the families of the captives and the American public watched the excruciating television footage of our brave soldiers being interviewed by their captors.

We could tell by the looks on their faces that they were unsure of their fates. In fact, as Ron Young recently said, death seemed to be an inevitability.

But their families held out hope. Without new information, hope was all they had.

Weeks passed with no news and hope turned to despair.

And on Palm Sunday, our despair turned to jubilation, as advancing U.S. forces liberated the POWs.

Many of us woke up that day to see the Young family celebrating Ron's freedom.

The Young family talked of their lasting faith, of their hope. They talked of their love for Ron and their excitement over his imminent return. Mrs. Young, a day from her birthday, had her wish come true: She would, indeed, be reunited with her son.

Their joy was our joy. When American soldiers face danger in the name of freedom, their compatriots rally behind them. We mourn their setbacks; we hail their victories.

We celebrate the safe return of Ron Young Jr., an American patriot and hero, to his family in Georgia.

On May 9, the people of Douglas County, Ga., will gather by the thousands to welcome home Chief Warrant Officer Young.

And we also want to say thank you to Ron Young and the thousands of other soldiers who put their lives on the line to defend their country and its people.

May God bless this country and its military.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF HEADMASTER WILLIAM MECKLENBURG POLK OF GROTON SCHOOL

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor William Mecklenburg Polk, Headmaster of the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts for twenty five years of dedicated service as Headmaster.

Like his illustrious predecessors John Crocker and Endicott Peabody, Bill Polk has left a remarkable legacy at the school and has touched the lives of thousands of young men and women who attended Groton over that span of time.

In his own words, "everyone who has attended Groton or entrusted their children to its care knows that Groton is a small, singular school. Today, in a society that seems increasingly to prize celebrity over character and self over service, Groton puts character, intellectual rigor, values, and service first."

Mr. Speaker, from his days as a Groton student, Bill Polk has epitomized Groton School values in all his academic, athletic, religious and pedagogic pursuits.

Appointed Headmaster in 1978, Bill Polk has made it his business, in his own words, to see that "Groton creates opportunities to cultivate individually students' minds and char-

acters (and) as a church school, it inevitably challenges students to discover their own moral and spiritual values. Groton's insistence on the highest academic standards would matter little if its graduates, to borrow Walker Percy's line, 'earned straight A's in school but flunked life.'"

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in saluting Headmaster Polk's stewardship and that of LuAnn Polk, his better half, for all of their years of service and love of the young, education and life.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly all of our lives have been touched by suicide at some point, be it a family member, neighbor or friend. It represents the darkest moment in a life, and inevitably touches many other lives with sadness and curiosity.

Suicide is a mental health issue that crosses racial boundaries and deeply affects every community in the United States. The Hispanic community is no exception. As in most communities, Hispanics find suicide a difficult topic to broach. The stigma still attached to mental health issues makes asking for help difficult; but the most overwhelming problem for most Hispanics is access to care that will benefit them.

In 2000, 18% of Hispanic females aged 12–17 were considered at risk for suicide, compared to 16% of white females and 8% of Hispanic males. Only 32 percent of Hispanic female youths at risk for suicide receive mental health treatment, according to the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

In 1997, the Attorney General reported a national survey of high school students showed that Hispanic adolescents reported more suicide attempts proportionally than both whites and blacks.

Among Hispanic Americans with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 contact mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 5 contact general health care providers. The figure is even worse among Hispanic immigrants with mental disorders where fewer than 1 in 20 use services from mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 10 use services from general health care providers.

Many times access to mental health services can be difficult for individuals in Hispanic communities, due to language barriers, which keep them from accessing the critical assistance they need to cope with their illness.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a serious problem among Hispanics, and other Americans. I want to thank Congresswoman Napolitano and Congressman Murphy for organizing the Mental Health Caucus to bring members together to shine light on the dark topic of suicide. I also thank the gentlewoman from Brownsville, Texas for organizing this special order to draw attention to this important subject.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE JAMES BUCHELE

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions made by James Buchele of Topeka, Kansas, to his city, county, state and nation, over a lengthy and distinguished public career that spans the thirty-five years I have known him.

Jim Buchele stepped down from the Kansas District Court bench in Shawnee County after eighteen years of service in 1999. Prior to his appointment, he served as United States Attorney for Kansas. His legal career began in 1966 with private practice in Topeka, after graduation from Washburn University School of Law and Kansas State University. He also served as City Attorney for Topeka and as chief of staff for Representative Martha Keys of Kansas' Second Congressional District. He served four terms as a state representative in the Kansas Legislature.

As an attorney and as a judge, Jim Buchele was involved in a wide range of state and federal litigation. After stepping down from the bench, Jim continued to serve as a professional mediator and arbitrator, as well as taking special assignments from the Kansas Supreme Court and serving as a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, which made recommendations regarding the management of the funds Kansas receives from the tobacco litigation settlement in order to finance programs and services for children.

Mr. Speaker, Roscoe Pound once said that "Law is experience developed by reason and applied continually to further experience." This sentence sums up Jim's lifetime of service in the law. During his time on the bench, for example, he specialized in handling domestic relations cases, including issues such as divorce, property division, child custody and other related matters. Shortly before he stepped down from the bench, the Topeka Capital-Journal published an article reviewing the special interest and attention that Judge Buchele brought to the family law docket in Shawnee County. I include the article in the RECORD and commend it to you and to my colleagues as evidence of a career in the law that brought tremendous benefits to Jim Buchele's community over a lengthy and successful career. As Owen Fiss wrote in the Harvard Law Review, "The function of the judge—a statement of social purpose and a definition of role—is not to resolve disputes, but to give the proper meaning to our public values."

Please join me in saluting Jim Buchele as he moves into full time retirement, where I'm sure he will continue to serve his community and nation at every possible opportunity.

JUDGE FOUND REWARDS IN FAMILY LAW

(By Steve Fry)

Shawnee County District Judge James Buchele measures his impact as a family law judge, in part, by a handful of cards and letters he has received from people who passed through his courtroom during divorces and subsequent disputes.

"Thanks a bunch. I really appreciate all that you have done," wrote a little girl, who